

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0373

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY OF AD HOC GROUP  
OF OCTOBER 31, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT ITS OCTOBER 31 MEETING, THE AD HOC  
GROUP (AHG) HEARD REPORT ON ROUTINE BILATERAL WITH THE  
SOVIET REP, NOTED THAT OCT. 31 PLENARY HAD FOLLOWED  
THE EXPECTED PATTERN WITH SOVIETS PUTTING FORWARD INITIAL REDUCT-  
ION PROPOSAL, AND AGREED ON PRESS LINE REGARDING EASTERN FIRST  
STEP PROPOSAL AS WELL AS NEED TO REBUT FIRST STEP PROPOSAL IN  
NOVEMBER 7 PLENARY STATEMENT. GROUP ALSO CONTINUED ITS OCTOBER  
30 DISCUSSION OF FUTURE TACTICS, REACHING CONSENSUD THAT THE  
ALLIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO MOVE INDIRECTLY TO SHIFT  
DISCUSSION AT INFORMAL MEETINGS TO COMMON CEILING SUBJECT MATTER  
VIA DISCUSSION OF GROUND FORCE RECATEGORIZATION AND LIMITATIONS

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ON AIR MANPOWER, BUT WITHOUT FORMALLY DROPPING "WHOSE FORCES"

TOPIC FROM THE AGENDA. END SUMMARY

BILATERALS

2. GREEK REP (SPYRIDAKIS) REPORTED CONCERNING COURTESY CALL ON SOVIET REP (KHLESTOV), WHO ADHERED TO STANDARD EASTERN POSITIONS. KHLESTOV ARGUED FOR REDUCTIONS OF GROUND, AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES, CLAIMED THAT THERE IS NO IMBALANCE IN THE NGA, INSISTED THAT FRG REDUCE FROM THE OUTSET, TOLD GREEK REP THAT EAST STILL DESIRED REDUCTIONS THROUGHOUT EUROPE RATHER THAN JUST IN NGA AND ASSERTED THAT EASTERN PROGRAM COULD BE REALIZED WITHIN A FIXED, RELATIVELY SHORT TIME PERIOD AND THUS WAS PREFERABLE TO "OPEN ENDED" TIMING OF WESTERN PROGRAM.

PRESS GUIDANCE

3. AFTER ALLIED PRESS SPOKESMAN HAD DESCRIBED HIS OCT. 31 POST-PLENARY PRESS CONFERENCE, THE GROUP CONCLUDED THAT EASTERN SPOKESMAN (SOVIET DELOFF FILONETS) HAD NOT REVEALED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INITIAL REDUCTIONS PROPOSAL, BUT NOTED THAT POLISH PRESS SPOKESMAN (WIEZOREK) ALSO HAD TALKED PRIVATELY WITH THE PRESS. FOR THE FUTURE, THE AHG AGREED THAT ALLIED PRESS SPOKESMAN SHOULD CONTINUE TO REFRAIN FROM DISCUSSING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL WITH THE PRESS, UNLESS THE EAST LEAKED DETAILS, IN WHICH EVENT HE SHOULD USE EXISTING AHG-APPROVED TALKING POINTS TO EXPLAIN THE ALLIED POSITION.

5. FUTURE TACTICS: AFTER AGREEING THAT THE OCT. 31 PLENARY HAD GONE AS EXPECTED, THE GROUP CONTINUED ITS PREVIOUS DISCUSSION OF TACTICS. FRG REP (BEHREND) NOTED THE EASTERN POSITION THAT THE "WHOSE FORCES" QUESTION REMAINED ON THE AGENDA, AND THAT THE FIRST STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL CONSTITUTED THE ANSWER. BEHREND SAID THE OBVIOUS ALLIED TACK SHOULD BE TO STEER THE FOCUS OF INFORMAL MEETINGS TOWARD THE COMMON CEILING VIA DISCUSSION OF GROUND FORCE RECATEGORIZATION AND, HOPEFULLY GIVEN EARLY NAC GUIDANCE, OF NO-INCREASE OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER. ROSE STRONGLY AGREED, NOTING THE OCT. 30 AHG CONSENSUS

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TO AVOID SUGGESTING A NEW AGENDA ITEM AND INSTEAD, TO MOVE INDIRECTLY VIA DISCUSSION AT INFORMALS OF GROUND FORCE REDEFINITION AND NO-INCREASE OF AIR MANPOWER, TO FOCUS ON GROUND FORCES, ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS AND COMMON CEILING GOAL. THIS UK-FRG APPROACH, COORDINATED WITH US DEL BEFORE THE OCT. 31 AHG MEETING, ALSO WAS THEN ENDORSED BY NETHERLANDS REP (DE VOS) AND ACTING CANADIAN REP (MORGAN).

6. IN REPLY, ISOLATED BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSEN) VOICED AGREEMENT WITH UK AND FRG REPS ON "SHORT TERM" TACTICS, BUT AGAIN REITERATED THAT "LONGER TERM" TACTICS REQUIRED THE WEST TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE "WHOSE FORCES" ISSUE, AND TO ADVANCE THE "FIRST STAGE" PROCEDURAL DEVICE IN ORDER TO ENGAGE THE EAST IN A DISCUSSION OF THE COMMON CEILING. IN EFFECT, SAID ADRIAENSSEN, HE HAD BEEN SEEKING IN RECENT AHG MEETINGS TO FIND A MORE FAVORABLE FORMAT FOR ADVANCING THE COMMON CEILING. BELGIAN REP CONTINUED TO ARGUE FOR "SOMETHING DIFFERENT" BUT COULD NOT DEFINE IT. ITALIAN REP (CAGIATI) JOINED GROUP CONSENSUS ON TACTICS FOR NEXT INFORMALS, SAID AHG REPS SHOULD POCKET POSITIVE EASTERN POINTS ON PHASING AND EVENTUALLY SHOULD CONSIDER LONGER TERM TACTICS. HE WAS PESSIMISTIC, HOWEVER, ON PROSPECTS FOR BRINGING THE EAST IN NEAR FUTURE TO CONSIDER THE COMMON CEILING TOPIC AS SUCH. CHAIRMAN (ACTING NORWEGIAN REP BRYNTESEN) SUMMARIZED GROUP CONSENSUS THAT, WITHOUT DROPPING THE "WHOSE FORCES" ISSUE, THE ALLIES WOULD CONTINUE AT INFORMALS TO MOVE INDIRECTLY TOWARD CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMON CEILING THROUGH DISCUSSION OF GROUND FORCES RECATEGORIZATION AND, WHEN POSSIBLE, THE AIR FORCE MANPOWER NO-INCREASE OFFER. TALKING POINTS FOR NOV. 5 INFORMAL WILL BE CONSIDERED AT NOV. 4 AHG MEETING.

7. NOV. 7 PLENARY STATEMENT: THE GROUP AGREED WITH THE FOCUS ON PHASING IN THE DRAFTING GROUP'S PROPOSED OUTLINE FOR THE NOV. 7 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT, BUT CONCLUDED THAT THE STATEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE A REASONED CRITIQUE OF THE EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTION PROPOSAL IN VIEW OF THE OFFICIAL TABLING OF THAT PROPOSAL BY SOVIET REP KHLESTOV AT THE OCT. 31 PLENARY. US DEP REP POINTED OUT THAT THE LONGER THE EASTERN PROPOSAL WAS ALLOWED TO GO UNANSWERED,

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THE MORE STATUS IT WOULD GAIN. GROUP AGREED WITH US SUGGESTION THAT ALLIES POCKET THE PROPOSAL'S POSITIVE ELEMENTS, AND THEN GO ON TO ATTACK THE REST OF IT AS UNACCEPTABLE, DRAWING ON TALKING POINTS PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE AHG FOR INFORMAL MEETINGS. RESOR

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